

SURPLUS PEOPLE PROJECT

Choosing a sample of households in a resettlement area for interviewing

We need filled in questionnaires for about 100 households in each resettlement area where interviews are possible. It will be assumed that 20% of households who are approached for interviews will be unable or unwilling to grant them.

Sampling rule 1, then, is: If the resettlement area contains 125 households or less, approach every household for an interview.

If there are more than 125 households, you will want to choose only some of them for interviewing, otherwise the exercise will become too large. If the area is not very large (i.e. if it is less than about 1 000 households) and you have more than one interviewer, divide the area up into zones, so that the zones cover the whole area but do not overlap. Each interviewer must choose a route through his zone so that he passes all the dwellings in the zone. He must count these (and make a map of his zone if he can) and report his count to the supervisor who will add all the counts together. When the interviewer is to carry out his interviews, he must go over the same route and select dwellings according to the following rule:

Sampling rule 2: If the resettlement area contains between 125 and 1 000 dwellings, select dwellings according to the following rule:

Total dwelling count	Rule
125 - 150	<u>Miss</u> every <u>fourth</u> dwelling and interview all households in the other three
151 - 200	Interview all households in every <u>second</u> dwelling.
201 - 300	Interview all households in every <u>third</u> dwelling.
301 - 400	Interview all households in every <u>fourth</u> dwelling.
901 - 1 000	Interview all households in every <u>tenth</u> dwelling.

If the area is very large, even sampling rule 2 will become hard to apply. Two things may be done:

(a) Part of the resettlement area only may be chosen for study. This part should be between 125 and 1 000 dwellings large so that sampling rule 2 can now be applied.

(b) The zones defined by the supervisor need not cover all the area (although they should be typical of the rest). They must of course still not overlap. The totals from the zones should be between 125 and 1 000 dwellings, so that sampling rule 2 can be applied.

Sampling rule 3: If the area contains more than 1 000 dwellings, choose part of the area for study using (a) or (b) above. A report should be written setting out what was done.

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Notes for organisers

1. Information on resettlement areas can be collected in one of two ways under the Surplus People Project:

- (a) a background questionnaire ALONE can be filled in. This is your responsibility. It requires a general background knowledge of the area and the information can generally be supplied by two or three leading members of the community. If this course of action is chosen, you need only return these questionnaires to the Surplus People Project.
- (b) a background questionnaire and approximately 100 household questionnaires can be filled in. In this case you have the following responsibilities:
 - (i) to fill in the background questionnaire
 - (ii) to recruit not less than two and not more than five household interviewers with at least secondary school education and train them in using the household questionnaire
 - (iii) to arrange for counting of dwellings and sample selection (see sheet on sample selection)
 - (iv) to check household questionnaires as they come in for errors and incompleteness and to send interviewers back for further information where necessary
 - (v) to return completed questionnaires to the Surplus People Project together with a report stating action taken over the training/ interviewing period.

2. Training. It is very important that interviewers should understand how to fill out the table in section 1. Each household questionnaire has a set of coding instructions whose use should be practised until thoroughly understood. Interviewers should practise on one another and in the field before the serious work starts. Many questions require only crosses or numbers, but those which require verbal specification should receive special attention. Full answers are required. Every part should be thoroughly discussed and mistakes made in practice sessions corrected.

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Notes for interviewers

The following points are very important:

1. Make sure that you understand the questionnaire properly. If you don't understand something, ask your organiser about it.
2. Make sure you fill in the questionnaire completely. Every relevant question must be answered with a cross or a number or written material. The organiser will send you back into the field to finish off incomplete questionnaires, and households may not receive you as warmly as they did on the first visit.
3. Be sure to follow your organiser's instructions about choosing a sample carefully. If choice is not done according to plan, this will spoil everyone's efforts, not just your own.
4. Before you ask questions of a household, introduce yourself and say what you are doing and why, so as to win trust. This way the interview will go easier and answers will be more reliable.
5. If there is more than one household in a dwelling, interview them all. Any responsible adult should be able to answer questions on behalf of each household.